



The Voice of Small Business®

MONTANA

TO: The Montana Senate Business Committee
FR: Riley Johnson, State Director, NFIB/Montana
RE: SB 250 – Right to Work
DATE: January 26, 2007

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the record I am Riley Johnson, representing the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), with over 7,000 small business members within Montana. Our average NFIB member in Montana is 2 to 3 employees and about \$300,000 in gross income. We truly are the “Mom and Pop Shops of Main Street Montana”.

NFIB comes before you today to support SB 250. In a March, 2002 survey of our NFIB membership, 65% favored passing Right to Work legislation, 25% opposed, 8% were undecided and 2% were not interested. That is 2/3rds of our members supporting SB 250.

WHAT IS THE RIGHT TO WORK PRINCIPLE? NFIB believes the right-to-work principle affirms the right of every free American to work for a living without being compelled to belong to a union. Compulsory unionism is a contradiction of that principle. Every individual must have the right to join a union, but that individual must NOT be compelled to join a labor union. NFIB believes in this principle.

IS RIGHT TO WORK ANTI-UNION? No. The Right to Work is neither “anti-union” nor “pro-union”. It is a matter of individual freedom. The Right to Work principle affirms the right of all Americans to work where they want and for whom they want, without coercion of any kind to join or not to join labor unions, or to support them in any way. Unions, after all, are private organizations. No other private organization in America insists on having the power to extract financial support from unwilling people.

Therefore, NFIB comes before you this morning to urge your support for SB 250 and recommend a “do pass” from this committee.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.